

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4494

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DEPT PASS TOKYO, OTTAWA, PARIS, IAEA VIENNA FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, KS, FR, CA

SUBJECT: ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

REF: SEOUL 9662

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT DISCUSSION POINTS CONCERNING THE  
PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY COOPERATION HANDED TO THE  
AMBASSADOR AT CLOSE MEETING DECEMBER 16, REPORTED REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT:

SOME DISCUSSION GUIDELINES CONCERNING NUCLEAR FUEL  
REPROCESSING HAVE COME TO ME FROM THE PRIME MINISTER  
AS A RESULT OF THE DECEMBER 5 DISCUSSION AT HIS OFFICE.  
MINISTER HYUNG-SUP CHOI IS AT THE MOMENT ABROAD BUT IS  
EXPECTED TO RETURN TO KOREA WITHIN THIS WEEK. SINCE THERE ARE  
VERY IMPORTANT MATTERS CONCERNING THIS SUBJECT WHICH ARE IN  
URGENT NEED OF DECISIONS, I AM PREPARING A REPORT  
TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE RECOMMENDATION OF APPROPRIATE ACTION TO  
THE PRIME MINISTER AND TO FACILITATE HIS DECISION MAKING.

WE NEED DETAILED INFORMATION ON YOUR SUGGESTIONS SO THAT  
MINISTER CHOI CAN MAKE THE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
PRIME MINISTER. WE WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE  
U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO EXPAND

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ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

AND ALSO TO BROADEN ITS TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH THE  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN OTHER SCIENTIFIC AREAS.

1. YOU HAVE INDICATED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOT ADVERSE  
TO ROK'S ACQUISITION OF LOW-ENRICHED FUEL FABRICATION  
TECHNOLOGY FROM FRANCE. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF, IN ADDITION  
TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FROM U.S. SOURCES, THE U.S. GOVT WOULD  
BE WILLING TO PROVIDE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMERCIALIZATION  
OF A FUEL FABRICATION PROJECT IN THE FUTURE.

2. AS YOU KNOW, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA GIVES FULL SUPPORT TO  
THE IDEA OF A MULTI-NATIONAL REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING  
CENTER IN THE FAR EAST. WE WISH THEN TO HAVE SPECIFIC  
INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

- (A) WHEN SUCH A FACILITY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED
- (B) WHERE IT WOULD BE LOCATED
- (C) THE NAMES OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
- (D) THE CENTER'S WORK SCOPE AND CAPACITY
- (E) ROK'S ENVISIONED ROLE IN THE CENTER

WE ALSO WISH TO KNOW IF THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT  
KOREAN TECHNICIANS IN RECEIVING TRAINING IN THE U.S. IN ADVANCE  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT.

3. CONCERNING YOUR OFFER TO ROK OF ACCESS TO NON-SENSITIVE  
NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING, WE WISH TO KNOW IF YOUR  
GOVERNMENT COULD GIVE SUPPORT TO THE FOLLOWING WHICH ARE  
ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF OUR LONG RANGE  
NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(A) DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR DESIGN  
CAPABILITIES AND THE NECESSARY TRAINING FOR SAME.

(B) DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR BUILDING CAPABILITIES  
AND THE NECESSARY TRAINING, OR ALTERNATIVELY THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A JOINT VENTURE PROJECT FOR NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY  
TRANSFER.

(C) DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR NUCLEAR REACTOR SAFETY  
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AND WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE REQUIRED TRAINING

(D) THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL AND SUPPORT FOR THE  
EMPLOYMENT BY KOREA OF THE AMERICAN TECHNICAL EXPERTS  
REQUIRED FOR THESE THREE ITEMS.

4. REGARDING YOUR SUGGESTION OF HELP IN OBTAINING  
ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR THE

REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN A SAFE AND MOST ECONOMICAL MANNER, I  
WISH TO HAVE YOUR REACTIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

(A) WILL THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE AN ENRICHMENT  
SERVICES CONTRACT TO MEET ALL KOREAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT  
REQUIREMENTS IN THE FUTURE?

(B) WILL THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE REPROCESSING  
SERVICES EVEN BEFORE THE COMMERCIAL OPERATION OF THE  
MULTI-NATIONAL REGIONAL FUEL REPROCESSING CENTER?

KOREA EXPECTS TO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING THE  
FINANCING REQUIRED FOR ITS LONG RANGE NUCLEAR POWER  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. WILL THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSIST  
KOREA IN OBTAINING LOANS ON FAVORABLE TERMS FOR THE PURCHASE  
OF NATURAL URANIUM AND NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS FROM THE U.S.?

WE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF AN EARLY RESPONSE SINCE  
THESE RESPONSES WILL BE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN THE  
PROCESS OF OUR DECISION MAKING. END TEXT.  
SNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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